



# Spokane Tribe of Indians

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*CENTURY OF SURVIVAL 1881-1981*

February 28, 2000

Mr. George Frampton, Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Colonel Eric T. Mogren, Deputy Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Northwestern Division  
P.O. Box 2870  
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Mr. J. William McDonald, Regional Director  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1150 N. Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Ms. Judi Johansen; Regional Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administrator  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

RE: Government to Government Consultation

Dear Sirs and Madam:

The Spokane Tribe requests initiating government to government consultation with appropriate Federal executives, including the Regional Directors of the Army Corps of Engineers; Bureau of Reclamation; National Marine Fisheries Services; and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The consultation would regard configuration and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System, the "All H Paper" and the upcoming Biological Opinions addressing ESA-Listed species in the Columbia-Snake River Basin.

This request is focused specifically on the need for consultation on the Multi-Species Biological Assessment of the Federal Columbia River Power System, December 21, 1999, by the Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And the recommendation of these Action Agencies to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding flood control.

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This request is not meant to, nor does it, displace the more preclusive consultation, process being planned among the Basin Tribes, including the Spokane Tribe and the Federal Caucus on a broad range of issues. We intend to continue to participate in development of that consultation process. Our concern in this request is with flood control and the decisions/recommendations being made by the Federal Action Agencies in regard to it.

We are assured by the Federal Caucus that no decisions have been made regarding these issues. While we take the Administration at its word, we are concerned that a procedural foundation is being established to support decisions that will severely impact our lives and we have not been included in any of these discussions. Meaningful consultation and collaboration must occur in the development of these decisions, not after the decisions are imminent.

The impacts to the Spokane Tribe from Federal Columbia River Power System Operations are pervasive. Flood control impacts are particularly harmful yet they are a component of FCRPS operations that may be subject to modification to lessen such impacts. We therefore request consultation on flood control for the following purposes:

1. Gain an effective understanding of the flood control decision process.
2. Provide the Federal. Action Agencies with a Spokane Tribal perspective of impacts suffered due to flood control operations.
3. Describe flood control recommendations of the Action Agencies of the Biological Assessment and the rationale, criteria and basis for such recommendations.
4. Explain the potential for utilization of Canadian Storage in meeting the flood control burden.
5. Describe what is being done to control down-river development in flood-prone areas.
6. Explain what mitigation is available to help alleviate upriver impacts.
7. Discuss other options or actions that are possible or under active consideration.

**Time is of the essence. The decision time frame is extremely limited. We request an expedited response to our request.**

Sincerely,

Bruce Wynne  
Chair, Tribal Business4iouncil

cc. Mr. Will Stelle, Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Ms. Anne Badgley, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Colville Confederated Tribes